



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn

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Chief Executive Officer

May 29, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors

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ESTABLISH A COUNTYWIDE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE MODEL TO COMBAT THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN LOS ANGELES (ITEM 32-D, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013)

On September 24, 2013, a motion directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to coordinate with the Sex Trafficking Task Force and the Departments of Probation, Children and Family Services (DCFS), Public Social Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services (DHS) and Sheriff to create the Los Angeles County multi-agency response model to address the sex trafficking of children and to report back in 90 days with a model and implementation plan.

In November 2012, the Board established the Sex Trafficking Task Force led by Probation and DCFS. The Board charged the Task Force with creating a Countywide interagency response model to assist Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), which includes the collection of data and provision of training to all agencies who serve these youth. Probation and DCFS have created a First Responder Protocol and an implementation plan for a victim-centered, multi-agency response model within the County. The First Responder Protocol will serve as the blueprint to guide law enforcement, County agencies, and community-based partners on appropriate steps to take within the first 72 hours of interfacing with an identified or suspected victim of child sex trafficking.

The First Responder Protocol will be operated within two pilot areas: Compton and Long Beach. After a law enforcement officer within these two areas identifies a suspected CSEC youth:

- The law enforcement officer calls the Child Protection Hotline (CPH) to report the suspected abuse, and provides the CPH worker with the location of a staging area, the designated area where the multidisciplinary team (MDT) will convene.
- The CPH worker initiates a CSEC Expedited Form and notifies the Probation Child Trafficking Unit (CTU) or the DCFS Multi-Agency Response Team (MART) that a CSEC youth has been identified. The CPH will determine the agency to contact depending on which has jurisdiction over the child.

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- CTU or MART notifies the advocacy agency and arrives at the staging area within 90 minutes to lead the MDT. The MDT includes the youth, MART and/or CTU, advocate, and any other individuals the MDT decides needs to be involved. The MDT plans for the child's safety, schedules an appointment for the CSEC youth at the DHS Medical Hub within 72 hours from the time the youth has been identified, and determines the appropriate placement for the youth. The MDT also arranges for the youth's transportation to the placement and any appointments needed, and schedules a follow-up MDT.
- Youth who can return home are returned to their families. If the youth cannot return home, they are placed in a Status Offender Detention Alternative/Probation Alternative to Detention (SODA/PAD) bed. The SODA/PAD beds are temporary housing that will be available and dedicated for CSEC youth in the pilot area to stay in for up to 30 days. For youth staying in a SODA/PAD bed, the advocate stays with them as determined by the MDT.
- Regardless of placement type, the advocate is also responsible for ensuring the youth's basic needs are met, participating in the MDT, and providing other advocacy services to the youth as needed for up to 90 days.

The attached documents outline the proposed First Responder Protocol and implementation plan (Attachments I and II).

The First Responder Protocol is on track for implementation to begin in Summer 2014. Prior to implementation, DCFS and Probation, as well as other key County agencies and community-based partners, will:

1. Develop protocols on information and data sharing agreements;
2. Create a procedure to obtain consent for medical and mental health treatment and authorization to share information;
3. Form a multi-disciplinary team with all of the participating agencies and establish an Operational Agreement;
4. Negotiate necessary changes to the existing SODA/PAD bed agreement;
5. Modify or amend existing agreements with partners, and/or create new contracts; and
6. Form a multi-agency review team to monitor the progress of implementation.

The immediate focus will be on specific training on CSEC and on the First Responder Protocol for personnel within DCFS, DHS, DMH, and Probation, as well as the advocates, SODA/PAD bed providers, and law enforcement involved in the Protocol. DCFS and Probation will report

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back to the Board on the progress of the Protocol's implementation after it has been operational for three months.

In order to provide adequate support to the identified CSEC victims, Probation is requesting \$150,000 in one-time funding to amend an existing Delegated Authority Agreement with Saving Innocence. These monies will be used to cover three additional specialized advocates that will provide, as mentioned above, immediate, 24-hour response, which includes accompanying the youth to a DHS Medical Hub for immediate assessment, addressing the youth's physical needs of food and clothing during the first 72 hours, as well as providing additional advocacy services for the first 90 days after they are identified as a potential CSEC youth. Probation is also requesting \$73,535 in one-time funding to create a searchable web portal through the County's 211 information and referral system that would provide CSEC youth and service providers working with these youth access to a catalog of CSEC specific services Countywide. These requests will be addressed in Probation's fiscal year 2014-15 final changes.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Antonia Jimenez at (213) 974-7365, or via e-mail at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ
CDM:MP:eb

Attachments (2)

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Children and Family Services
 Health Services
 Mental Health
 Probation

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